THE STUDENT SOCIAL WORKER

Journal
of
The Madras Students' Social Service League

MADRAS

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Vol. I December 1952 No. 1

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M. K. Karunakar,
Editor & Publisher.

Vol. I December 1952 No. 1

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—Mahatma Gandhi.

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Editorial

2 - JUN 1955
MADRAS

> *"So long as millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor who, having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to them".*
>
> **—*Swami Vivekananda.***

INDIA is poor; India is underdeveloped. The soul of India lies in its villages. These are facts so well known that they need no reiteration. The only question is how to tackle this important problem. The Union Government has formulated its Five Year Plan; the State Governments have their plans as well. But Governmental agencies in a Democratic Country because of the nature of the help given by them cannot fulfil the needs of the state to its full. It is here that voluntary help and organization should come in. An enlightened community, in which every citizen plays his rightful part is an essential pre-requisite for an efficient functioning of Democracy.

WE believe that the most important section of our Society is the Youth of our Country. They are the architects of the future glory of our Nation. Among the youth, students are the most fortunate section in as much as they are the most well-informed and hence, best suited for leadership. If the lead is to be given by the students, their education must enable them to do it. What University Degrees, scientific training and literary attainments cannot achieve, a practical training in Social Welfare and Community Work can certainly achieve. And it was with this specific purpose that The Madras Students Social Service League was formed three years ago.

THE League has made rapid strides in this short span of life. It is for you to judge the importance of its activities and the multifarious nature of its undertakings from the pages that follow. The Journal is its latest venture. We admit that it has many and varied shortcomings. We expect to be excused for them. If this journal helps in the furtherance of the cause and work of the League even in a small measure, we shall be amply rewarded.

Karunakar,
Editor.

Madras.
12th Dec. '52.

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The Madras Students Social Service League

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Prof. Mrs. G. Parthasarathi, M.A., B. Litt. (Oxon) M.A., L.T. (Madras).
Vice-President: Prof. K. Swaminathan, M.A.B.L., B.A. (Oxon).
Treasurer: Miss. C. Coelho B.A.
Student-Chairman: Mr. M. K. Karunakar, (*Stanley Medical College*).
Secretaries: Mr. M. Rasheed Mohamed (*Govt. Arts College*).
Miss M. Colaco, (*Stella Maris College*).
Members: One representative from each of the men's institutions and two representatives from each of the women's institutions.

THE Madras Students' Social Service League, founded in 1950, is the students' social service body in Madras with sixteen of the city college social service leagues affiliated to it. It is a non-political, non-communal Student Organisation rendering effective rural and social service by co-ordinating its activities with the social service efforts of the institutions that represent the league. The League arranges periodical conferences and lectures and is looked upon as a common forum on which student social workers can meet, exchange ideas, evolve common plans and therefore act collectively. Other objects of the League include assistance to other Social Service Agencies and also relief work in times of emergency. Some of the many social activities conducted by our member instituitions are: Running of Mobile Hospitals, Slum improvment Adult Education, Rural school management, Rural work camps and Hospital visitings.

The following college Social Service leagues are affiliated to the M.S.S.S.L.

Queen Mary's College, Ethiraj College, Stella Maris College, St. Christopher's, Lady Willingdon College, Sir Theagaraya College, Govt. Arts College, Pachaiyappa's College, Veterinary College, Vivekananda College, Law College, Presidency College, Meston Training College, Women's Christian College, Madras Christian College and Stanley Medical College.

Three one day conferences have been held, one at the Madras Christian College on 9th Nov' 50 another at Veterinary College on 1st Sept. 1951 and the other at Govt. Arts College on 1st Nov. 1952. The league has taken active part in the successful sale of the Anti-T. B. seals.

The league arranged a Social Welfare Certificate Course for students. Lectures were given by people who were specialists in their respective fields.

A seven days' Rural Work Camp (a report of which is found elsewhere in this journal) was organised in Old Tambaram Village to build a dispensary. The building has alomost been completed.

The League has secured an eminent place among the Social Service Organizations of the Madras city and it has an enthusiastic team of sincere workers.

The activities of the League are attracting more and more students towards the cause of co-operative social work.

Messages from Leaders of Social Service

Message from Moulana Azad, Minister for Education, Government of India, communicated by his private secretary.

. . . .. Wish your organisation success in its endeavours to interest the student community in Social and Rural Service..........................

Sri J. C. KUMARAPPA,
Director, Agrarian Research Centre,
Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh,
SINDI.

.. .. Your attempt seems to cover a wide field, especially for a student magazine. The usual defect of student social service is its impermanence as students form only a floating population. Any Social work to be effective will have to have sustained devoted service. The only excuse for students to dabble in this type of work is to get acquainted with the lot of the less fortunate ones. However, I trust your efforts will be more substantial.............

(Sd.) J. C. KUMARAPPA.

Dr. P. KUTUMBIAH,
B.A., M.D., M.R.C.P. (London),
Principal,
Christian Medical College,
Vellore.

....I am very glad to see the aims of the "Student Social Worker". Rural and Social Service hereafter is going to be the touch-stone of our loyalty to India. All pioneering work like yours is

worthy of all support. I fully appreciate the idea of starting social service groups in colleges as it would be the most appropriate training ground for students. We have our own Rural and Social Service unit which is doing good work in its own way.

I wish the "Student Social Worker" all success in the future..........

(Sd.) P. KUTUMBIAH.

Sri P. KODANDA RAO,
Servants of India Society,
Bangalore.

..........I send herewith my suggestion that the best and the most important social work that students can undertake is to serve as teachers in Primary and High schools for a year as part of their course for the Matriculation Certificates and University Degrees

....

With every good wish.

(Sd.) P. KODANDA RAO.

Mrs. M. LAKSHMIAMMA,
Madras Sevasadan,
Chetput, Madras.

..........Good wishes for the success of your journal and for your endeavours at co-operative Social Service ....

(Sd.) M. LAKSHMI.

The Student Social Worker

MADRAS

Vol. I DECEMBER 1952 No. 1

Students and Social Service

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By

Dr. A. ANANTANARAYANA AYER, B.A., M.B.B.S., M.Sc., F.A.Sc.,
Director,
Institute of Anatomy,
Stanley Medical College, Madras.

INDIA is a land of villages; 90 per cent of our population are villagers. With centuries of exploitation subordinating the interest of the village to that of the towns and the interest of the country to that of a foreign ruler, the villages have become very primitive with humans living at the threshold of subsistance. Due to poverty and ignorance they have become incapable of leading a decent and healthy life. Since the progress of the country depends on the wellbeing and health of each and every individual, the need of the hour is to improve the lot of our rural population. Governmental endeavour by itself could achieve very little. Every individual who is lucky enough to enjoy the amenities of life, like education and healthy environment, should try as far as possible to pass on at least a moiety to the people of the villages and city slums and try to improve their condition. The need for social service on the part of the public is very essential and evident. But the question may be asked how the students of our country can help this cause. I shall try to answer the following questions in the order put to me by the Editor.

Question I.—How can the Indian student help the Social work in India?

Answer.—There are a number of organisations in India doing social work of various kinds. Some of the colleges in the cities have their own social service leagues. The students of these colleges are able to render very good service through these leagues and through the various other organisations for similar purposes. Students in colleges which do not have a social service section must immediately form one. A co-operative organisation is necessary before individual effort can be properly channelised. The students in professional colleges can render aid in the branch in which they are being trained. For example, medical students can form themselves into a medical unit and visit neighbouring villages rendering medical aid, imparting knowledge on topics of healthy living, first aid, etc. Students of an engineering

college can form an engineering unit and during their visits they can render advice to improve the conditions of the roads, bunds, tanks, wells, etc. In all this the assistance of the villagers could easily be availed of by proper approach under the supervision of the student workers. Students of arts and science colleges can help in eradicating illiteracy by adult education and giving suggestions and example for every kind of improvement of the village. Even if only students would try to visit the villages in small groups looking into their needs and in communicating these to higher authorities for redress and render whatever co-operative help that can be given in remedying the state of affairs, even such token work would go a long way to benefit both the village and the student groups.

Question II.—Can social work be made a compulsory item in the school and college curriculum?

Answer.—Definitely social work can be made a compulsory item in our schools and colleges to the benefit of 'education' itself. The professors and teachers in our colleges and schools help to build the mental faculty of our students; but the education of our students would not be complete if they do not see for themselves what real rural India is and how best they can help to improve the country and make it a place worthwhile for each and every one to live in. The small percentage of boys and girls who have been lucky to get the education that the majority could not get should not be brought up within the sequestered atmosphere of the towns and cities. They should realise that there are 90 per cent of our people who have not had the privilege of a modern education. Really it is these people that constitute India. This realisation can be brought about only by making social work compulsory in our schools and colleges. Every year during the holidays a compulsory summer camp should be arranged extending over a few weeks for all students; then they would distribute themselves in batches throughout the countryside, studying the condition and requirements in the rural areas so that they may become aware of it and do their best to alleviate it. Such a scheme would really produce young men and women of stamina and vision of whom the country could be proud.

Question III.—Is substantial social work possible by the student without hindrance to the studies?

Answer.—Yes. Most of the students spend a lot of their spare time in wasteful avocations. This time could be utilised in some sort of social work. Every student could easily spare a half day off on Saturday or on Sunday for forming themselves into batches to visit neighbouring villages for social service. The time spent in such a work could never be considered a waste. On the other hand it would furnish our young men and women with a fund of knowledge about the country and its people, which study is so very essential for them in their life's work in any career. Thus in my opinion social work by students is not only not a hindrance to their studies but is itself a real education concerning the people of the land, their life and needs, a knowledge which is so very vital to every one who would endeavour to better the condition of our country. If as a free nation we feel that we should re-create the conditions in our country in accordance with the modern scientific age and our ancient cultural traditions,

the new India of the future will be recreated not only in towns and cities but also in thousands of villages in every nook and corner of rural India where men can live in health and happiness with a satisfying cultured life.

If I had My Way

By

SRIMATI LILAVATI MUNSHI

(Broadcast from the Lucknow Station of the All India Radio on October 28, 1952.)

FRIENDS, it is nearly five months since I came to your State. It is a new life and a new experience for me. The Governor's wife is supposed to live a life of idle grandeur and attend ornamental functions. This conception of life is so very different from the life I have lived so far.

Since I came here, I have come to know a number of people and have learnt about so many admirable achievements of the Government of U.P. I have found that the people of this State are nice and hospitable and the land beautiful and fertile. Much has been done for the people and still so much more could be done if one applies one's mind to it; and has the opportunity of doing so.

When I came here, I did not know what was expected of me. Now that I have lived in your State for some months I feel that I can do something for the women and children of the State if proper co-operation is forthcoming, not only from the Government but also from the people as a whole. The first and foremost thing that I want to do is that every woman who, on account of cruelty or vileness of others or on account of her own follies, has left her home or has been driven out of it, should be helped and rehabilitated. She should be prevented from taking recourse to the downward path which generally a helpless woman may perforce take in sheer desperation.

This is a tremendous task requiring unbounded faith in human nature, untiring energy and big resources, which only the people as a whole can provide. Of course, the Government can help in many ways. In U.P. there is a population of more than six crores. Supposing every one contributed one rupee per year, crores of rupees can be collected which may be utilized to rehabilitate the unfortunate women and stabilize them both mentally and physically. If we all resolve that no woman should be allowed to lead a life of degradation out of her helplessness and she should be helped in every possible way to lead an honourable life, I am sure we can prevent tragedies in many lives. The question of such helpless women and with them their unfortunate children could automatically be solved if proper help is given to them in time.

People may tell me that it is all very well to talk about saving the unfortunate women and children or solving their

problems but all these attempts so far made in this direction have not touched even the fringe of the problem.

I know it is a tremendous task which no single human being can do. However, one can only try and try sincerely. There is an ultimate picture in my mind's eye. I should like to have colonies for such women who can own houses to live in with their children and support themselves honourably. It will be more or less on the same lines as have been adopted by the Rehabilitation Ministry with regard to the displaced persons.

If I have my way, I should like to set about my work in the following way :—

(i) Social workers, men and women both, in every district and town who are likely to take interest should be organized for this work. The officials, non-officials and their wives all can help in this matter.

(ii) The second step should be to arouse public conscience against many injustices from which our society as a whole, and particularly women, are suffering.

(iii) Temporary shelters could be provided in every district and posters giving information about such shelters should be displayed at prominent places and at every railway station. The names and addresses and telephone numbers of the social workers or the person in charge of the shelter should be prominently mentioned in those posters.

(iv) Women who come to the shelters should be free to go away if they so choose.

(v) Attempts for reconciliation with their families may be made, if possible, but those who cannot be reconciled to the family and want to be helped should be transferred to a Central Home where some useful trades and occupations could be taught to them.

(vi) The course of training, generally, should be from six to twelve months and it should be our aim that each woman should learn at least one useful trade and acquire a minimum earning capacity of Rs. 30/- to Rs. 60/- per month.

(vii) Marketing of all the articles prepared by these women, either during the training period or after it, should be done by the Central Body which could be formed for this purpose.

(viii) Women, who have taken training and are able to earn, should be shifted either to a village of their choice, where they can run their trade, or to the colony specially set up for their rehabilitation.

(ix) In these colonies, cheap houses with a small compound be erected by the Society, which would be organizing this work and they should either be let out to the women or they should be allowed to buy these houses on easy hire purchase basis. The cost of each house should not exceed Rs. 1,500/-.

(x) In the case of a woman choosing to settle down in a village, similar housing facility should, as far as possible, be provided on municipal or other vacant ground on the same terms and conditions of letting it out to her or allowing her to acquire on hire purchase system as in the case of colonies.

(xi) A school, a workshop and a dispensary should be provided in every such colony. If possible, the tools of their trades also should be given to women who choose to go and live there.

(xii) Women who want to marry and go out of the colony should be allowed to do so and the houses owned by them should be re-purchased by the society at the depreciated valuation.

(xiii) If there is any child born to a woman after she is received in the shelter, that child should stay with the mother herself. The child should be brought up as an honourable citizen.

(xiv) Every such colony should have a co-operative or collective farm attached to it.

This is the outline of the picture in my mind.

The idea is that by equipping a woman to earn her livelihood and, ultimately, providing her with a house and a little land, a large majority of them will be rooted to the soil and will be attached to their homes and there will, thus, be little temptation to go astray.

This is a picture in my mind. It could be given a concrete shape if the Government of Uttar Pradesh, social workers, students, technicians and many others come forward to help in this work of rebuilding the society. I shall begin to think ahead if I get a good response to the idea that I am placing before the people of U. P. I invite those who are interested in this work to write to me expressing their views.

Address given at the Third Annual Conference of the Madras Students Social Services League. November 1, 52.

By

Miss K. N. BROCKWAY,

Principal, St. Christopher's Training College.

As we look about us in India, we cannot but be deeply distressed by the poverty, hunger, disease and misery of many of our fellow citizens. Let us take heart from what has been accomplished for the very poor in Britain and resolve that, God helping us, some of the beneficial changes that have been brought about in England during my life time may be seen in India during the life time of many here.

Mrs. Parthasarathi, Mr. Bhaktavatsalam, students, It is an honour to be invited to speak to you to-day. I think I owe this privilege to the fact that I can look back over many years of student life in this country and in England. I came out to teach in India more than thirty years ago. Soon after my arrival, an English friend attended a students' conference, and she was distressed to find the apparent total lack of interest in social work among students of that day. How great has been the change since then. Two years ago I was asked to write a paper for the Madras State Social Work Conference on 'Social Service by Madras University Students'. I visited a number of colleges and I was impressed by the good social work being done at many

of them. A proposal was made about that time to form a Madras Students Social Service League. I rejoice that it has now became a reality and it is a particular pleasure to be with you to-day.

My second early memory of students and social work goes back forty years to my own student days in England. I attended a student conference in the year 1912 and we heard shocking accounts of the unemployment, sweated labour, poverty and miserable housing conditions of many workers in the England of that day. It would have seemed almost incredible to be told that within our lifetime extreme poverty would be abolished in Britain. Yet that has been accomplished, largely through the services of social workers and economists. (This is, however, far from implying that there are no inequitable conditions in Britain to-day). As we look about us in India, we cannot but be deeply distressed by the poverty, hunger, disease and misery of many of our fellow citizens. Let us take heart from what has been accomplished for the very poor in Britain and resolve that, God helping us, some of the beneficial changes that have been brought about in England during my life time may be seen in India during the life time of many here.

A University Commission which visited India some years ago spoke of the need for enlightened social service by University students. The Commission described such service as, "putting the scientific mind behind the merciful heart." The scientific mind helps us to profit by the experience of experts in this difficult field, and the merciful heart helps us always to remember that these are our brothers and sisters whom we are endeavouring to serve. Social service by University Students is doubtless very desirable, but there are difficulties to be faced. First and foremost, social service cannot be the primary concern of a student. His primary duty is to work at his studies so as to equip himself for his life work. A second difficulty is that social service by students can never be uninterrupted and continuous. Long holidays and frequently changing personnel make this impossible. To meet these difficulties many colleges raise money to pay the salary of permanent social workers. That is good as far as it goes, but it ought also to be possible for every student who is interested to do some form of social services himself or herself. My suggestion as regards this particular difficulty is that each college (in addition to undertaking social work in one underprivileged locality where the complicated problems inherent in such work, economic, educational and medical, may be seen), should encourage its students to help other social service organizations in the city. In the college which I represent students help regularly at Boys' Town, the Mohite Play ground, the Mental Hospital, the Ophthalmic Hospital, Pallam Rural Centre, the Y.W.C.A. Play Centre, Adult Education for servants, in addition to work in Aryan Lane where our particular social work is located. It is thus possible for every student who is interested to do a regular piece of social service. Still another difficulty is that social work to be well done needs the help of specialists. Teachers, doctors, health visitors, psychiatrists and many more should co-operate in such work. Would it be possible for our colleges to help each

other so as to get specialist help from teachers' colleges, medical colleges etc. and also from both men and women? It is surely impossible to achieve the uplift of a group of families without the service of both sexes. The final difficulty is financial. That is a very real difficulty but let us not forget that too much money (or money unwisely used) is a greater hindrance to good social work than too little money. We must continue with our laborious efforts to raise money for social service. Let us also go ahead with the good plan of getting the wise advice of experts. We are fortunate to have the willing advice of such experts, and also to have the newly organized School of Social Work and University Social Work Diploma in Madras. Most important of all, however, for every social worker is to have an unselfish and undaunted spirit. I close with a quotation from a great English pioneer in social service, Elizabeth Fry, the prison reformer. She wrote, "A humble watchful spirit is called for; one that is not too much exalted by the undue approval of our fellow mortals, nor too much cast town by their disapproval or evil report. There must also be a willingness to commit all our works to God who can prosper them or not according to His own good pleasure."

Social Service and Fund Raising

By

Prof. K. Swaminathan, M.A.B.L., B.A. (Oxon),

Principal, Govt. Arts College.

Side by side with the increase in the Social Service activity of our College students there has also been a more than corresponding increase in the frequency and intensity of their Fund Raising Campaigns. Not only every College but every Hostel appears, hat in hand, before the public, demanding donations for their Social Service Leagues of which the first, the most important and often the only activity seems to be this Fund Raising Campaign.

The primary duty of College students is, of course, the pursuit of knowledge, and so long as they are *in statu pupillari* any Social Service that they may do will have to be judged entirely in terms of its contribution to their knowledge. Work in slums, villages, hospitals, etc., is of the highest educative value and helps students *qua* students by providing them with first-hand contacts with life which will supplement and enrich their systematic, curricular studies. To carry on this work some funds are certainly required and they will have to be found for the students and by the students, just as the cost of books, periodicals and other equipment is provided partly by and partly for them.

Just as every College collects games fees and reading room fees along with the tuition fees, it should also collect a small Social Service Fee of about a

rupee a year and administer it with the same care with which it administers other special fees. If this is not done for our College students and they are allowed to waste their time and energy and earn unpopularity for themselves and for their Colleges by going round and collecting funds for their over-advertised 'social service', we shall be doing needless harm to a cause which we all have so much at heart.

By the inclusion among the special fees of a Social Service Fee levied at the rate of Re.1/-a year for each student, College managements can collect a reasonable amount and enable College Social Service Leagues to meet the general public on terms that involve more 'giving' than 'taking', so that the visits of our volunteers would be welcomed rather than dreaded.

Address given by Sri M. K. Karunakar,

Student Chairman of M.S.S.S.L.

At the Public Session of the Third Annual Conference of the League.

The so called politicians' grip on the Indian Student is becoming less and less powerful and the creative spirit in the student is being roused towards the more noble task of serving the country through serving her less fortunate people. Social service helps to form the character of the student and gives him the opportunity to identify himself with the lot and interests of the less privileged and the less fortunate. So that, even in spite of his sophisticated surroundings, there will be an unconscious change in him and in his out look which would be beneficial in the larger interests of the country.

Let us inspire the spirit of service of the Father of our Nation who said "God is Love". Let not the barriers of caste, religion or nationality limit our service to humanity. A true Social Worker has only one religion and one nation and that is 'HUMANITY'.

Mr. President, distinguished guests of the evening, and friends.

On this occasion when the Madras Students' Social Service League steps into its 4th year of life it may not be necessary to tell the student delegates anything about the League which has become so much a part of them.

But the distinguised members of the public who are present with us this evening are entitled to know something about us—and the demand is reasonable too, because the League is young.

The main object of the League is to co-ordinate the efforts of institutions in the field of social work and to make Social Service effective, and thereby, stimulate and develop that innate quality in Man—the desire to help others. The League is also meant to

be a common forum on which student social workers can meet, exchange ideas, evolve common plans and therefore act collectively.

The day on which the annual conference of any organisation is held is a day of "Stock taking" and also the day to renew the pledge for which the organisation stands. We have among us to day the future scientist, doctor, engineer, lawyer and administrator of the country. Some among the many different types of social work done by our members are: The running of a Mobile hospital, Slum improvement, Village development, Adult education, Rural work .camps and Hospital visiting. Looking back over the past the League has a good record of work among which the Social Welfare Certificate Courses, where hundreds of students from almost all of the city colleges congregated, are worth mentioning.

As a result of the co-operation and enthusiasm of our members, we were able to take some new steps, this year, such as raising a fund by conducting a benefit cinema show, running a holiday work camp during the Dasrah holidays, and plans to publish a journal for the League. The holiday work camp at Old Tambaram village, where we put up the walls of a small building with the help and co-operation of the Madras Christian College, was, we hope, you will agree, a step in the right direction. We are legitimately proud of the fact that when the idea of manual labour is still a theory with many of the city social service organisations, we have started doing something in that direction. And, it was a grand experience too. "The Student Social Worker", the journal of the League, which is being brought out, will give an account of this camp and a complete record of the social service activities of the city colleges.

With these primary facts about ourselves I may be permitted to touch a few points on Students and Social Work.

With due regard to the few who encourage us in every possible way, I should say, that many have a cynical opinion about students doing Social Work. The usual defect pointed out is its impermanence, as students form only a floating population and it is held that for any social work to be effective, it has to be sustained service. But as far as our organisation is concerned, there are no grounds for such fears, as our work is done on an institutional basis; and as long as the institutions live, which are its members, manned by students and worthy members of the staff, their social work will and can continue.

Rural and social work apart from being useful to the villager and the less fortunate, can do immense good to the social worker himself. Social Service helps to form the character of the student and gives him the opportunity to identify himself with the lot and interests of the less privileged and the less fortunate. So that, even, inspite of his sophisticated surroundings, there will be an unconscious psychological change in him and in his outlook which would be beneficial in the larger interests of the country.

Rural and social service are going to be the touch-stone of our patriotism and loyalty to our Motherland. In a

country like ours, which is so great and vast, which is so much of a veritable museum of diversities there is real risk of the white collared college student becoming isolated from the half naked men and women of the villages, who are the very life-blood of the country, and in whose hands lies the destiny of the country. So social work has to be evolved as a driving force in the extra-curricular activities of students.

A complaint often pointed out by some reformers is that Social service has become a fashion of the day. I only wish it to be a more passionate fashion in everybody's life, throughout, so that even inspite of the will of the individual, some good would be done by him atleast for the sake of fashion.

We have been a free nation these last few years; if we go into the matter in what way this national freedom has affected the college student in his academic life, the answer is not very encouraging. Have not the public and leaders of society any obligation to the student population. If they really mean what they say, and if the students of today are to shoulder the responsibility of the country more efficiently when it becomes their turn, it is not enough that is repeated in and out of season, but there should be a solid gesture towards bringing them up so.

There is plenty of scope in the colleges for training students in administration and Public work, and thus prepare them to take up the future responsibility of the country. We know that in other countries the student has an important role in the administration of his own college or institution. In how many colleges in India do students sit on the college or Univeristy Councils? Perhaps the answer is none. Does it mean that the average, intelligent University student is so poor to have nothing to say about his own affairs, or does it mean an indifference on the part of the authorities concerned and unwillingness to deviate from the long-followed, but less-acceptable, tradition present.

The world is changing. The present day student has the advantage of knowing more about the world and its ways. He is better informed about it. He feels that he is the citizen of a free country and the energy in him drives him to do something for his country.

The student in India has never been found wanting in enthusiasm or courage or a sense of duty. So when he finds himself praised and boosted up as the pillar of the nation on the one hand and on the other, is compelled to become inert, he finds himself in a dilemma—a world of confusion.

The creative spirtit in the student can be developed and utilised by the college, by giving him an active part in the running of the institution. This will attach him to the institution more closely and will also give him sufficient training to shoulder future responsibility. As it stands now, the relationship between the student and the institution is not very satisfactory. That relationship should not be the relationship between the hotel and its boarders.

The only possible way to have better relationship between the institution and the student is to take him into confidence in all things connected with the institution and to give him ample responsibility which will absorb his time and energy and satisfy his sense of having done something good.

The relationship of the student towards his Alma Mater should be as strong and effective as his relationship to his own family. And if that relationship has to grow so strong, the student should in his days of student-hood be made to feel that he is a part of the institution.

It augurs well for the future that Rural and Social Service Leagues are being started in every college and more and more students are being attracted to their work. The so-called politician's grip on the Indian Student is becoming less and less powerful and the creative spirit in the student is being roused towards the more noble task of serving the country through serving her less fortunate people. Politicians dwindle away into insignificance in a clash between different ideals and differing ideas. But the man with a loving heart is never forgotten.

Let us inspire the spirit of service of the Father of our Nation who said "God is Love". Let not the barriers of caste, religion or nationality limit our service to humanity. A true social worker has only one religion and one nation and that is HUMANITY. At the same time let us not forget the old saying "Charity begins at Home".

Let us bring it to the attention of the public that we are on the right path, and it is now upto them to help us in all possible ways and make our endeavours successful. Ladies and Gentlemen, our services are at your disposal to do anything substantial and wholesome in the interests of the less privileged and less fortunate men, women and children of India.

JAI HIND!

Social Service Activities of Madras City Colleges

Queen Mary's College

THE Social Service League of the Queen Mary's College was started as early as 1920 when an organized effort was made by the staff and students to relieve the distressing conditions under which the people of the adjoinging Cheri lived. This resulted in the birth of the "Village Workers Association" which gradually evolved into the Social Service League. To-day its activities centre mainly around the adjoining Kailasapuram Cheri.

The Social Service League Elementary School:—It is run under the management of the league. It is Government recognized and is staffed with 5 teachers. The rolls show a steady increase. There are 150 students in the school at present. Extra curricular activities

include games, music, excursions, spinning and weaving.

The Food Section :—Supplies the children of the school with a free midday meal, which costs the League Rs. 150/- every month. The fare is simple and consists of rice and sambar. Special treats are provided on occasion by donations from the staff and students. We are grateful to the guild of service for supplying us with egg powder which is now included in the diet.

The Weaving Section: is now a small scale industry. This section works with 4 looms under a qualified instructor. Bed spreads, sheets, dhotis, towels and shirting cloth are woven here. The woven articles find a ready sale among students and the section tends to be self supporting.

The Dispensary: works twice weekly, with a qualified doctor in charge, who tends the sick from the Cheri. The dispensing and compounding are done by the students of the College.

Needlework Section :—This section aims at teaching the girls of the cheri to mend their own clothes including a little fancy work.

Adult Education :—Classes are conducted daily from 7-9 P.M. under a qualified instructor. An average of 15 pupils attend this class daily.

Cheri Visiting: Include a number of students who systematically work at cleaning the Cheri premises. This section aims at instilling the elements of hygiene and cleanliness in these people.

Hospital Visiting :—This section busies itself with visiting the various hospitals of the city, distributing magazines, sweets and flowers and occasionally gives small variety entertainments to the poor patients.

The League has a committee of more than 35 with a staff member and 2 students in charge of each section. The expenses of the League are heavy amounting to Rs. 500/- per mensem. The funds available for the annual recurring and non-recurring expenditure include—

(1) Grant in aid for the school,

(2) Subscriptions and voluntary contributions,

(3) Proceeds of an annual entertainment got up by the students, exclusively for the League Funds.

MISS. S. JAYALAKSHMI,
Secretary.

T

Madras Christian College, Tambaram

THE Madras Christian College Rural Service League aims to provide opportunities for students to become conscious of rural problems and to study and understand them through constructive work in a village. Many students irrespective of cast, creed and community take advantage of these opportunities provided by the League. They go to Old Tambaram village, our R.S.L. centre, where they do some constructive work and thereby equip themselves with the knowledge of Rural Problems.

As usual we started our work this year with enthusiasm and determination to achieve something concrete. At the beginning of the year a group of six American students were present with us. Their presence gave a new impetus to the progress of our work. With their co-operation we were able to put up a badly needed shed for our elementary school.

Our elementary school is serving the interest of the village children very effectively. 220 children are studying in the school. With the appointment of a secondary grade trained Head-master, the general standard of the children has shown a marked improvement. The children are given midday meal every day.

In response to an appeal from the villagers of Chitlapakam, we have opened another Adult school there, in addition to the already existing one at Tambaram. We are very happy to report that the government has recognised our new adult school at Chitlapakam. We are also helping the Adult schools in other villages around Tambaram by supplying slates and books.

In spite of yarn shortage and discouraging market condition, we are carrying on our work in the weaving centre, with a view to provide employment for 16 boys. These boys are paid at piece-rate.

The members of the league are also trying to alleviate the ravages of disease in the village through medical service. Minor cases are treated by the students themselves and serious cases are sent to the College Doctor. Our long standing desire has been to build a dispensary. We are very glad to report that we have nearly realised our aspiration, because a brick-building 15' x 12' has been constructed with the help and co-operation of the M.S.S.S.L. during September holidays. We are very greatful to the M.S.S.S.L. for their generous help and encouragement.

Members of the League also do manual work. We have cemented the floor of all the school sheds. It is indeed a great achievement that we have successfully completed the digging of a well in our school premises.

The villagers are being helped by us in starting kitchen-gardening. We have also started the cottage industry of mat weaving, where a few persons are being trained in this industry.

Although we are happy about these achievements we are not completely satisfied with them. We look forward to achieve more and be a greater help to the villagers. With this determination we will apply ourselves to the task ahead of us.

S. L. J. SCUDDER,
Secretary.

Stanley Medical College

THE day of 26th January 1951 saw the birth of our League under difficult circumstances. Formed under the auspices of College Association it consists of a sub-committee of 12 members and an Advisory Board of two clinicians, a Health Officer, and a Nursing Superintendent.

Aims of the League

1. To render medical relief to the rural population.
2. To prevent diseases.
3. To improve the sanitary conditions of the villages.
4. To educate masses about personal and social hygiene.
5. To help the villagers to become self-reliant and self-sufficient.
6. To do possible social service within the City.

As a routine every Sunday our College Bus leaves for **Alamadi**, a village 17 miles away from Madras, at about 1-30 P.M. with a batch of thirty consisting of Doctors, Specialists, Nurses and Senior Medical Students with all the necessary medicines and surgical instruments.

About 450—500 patients are being treated freely every time. Some time ago the attendance was only 100—150. The great increase in attendance is due to the popularity of our work, as a result of which patients within a radius of 10—15 miles around **Alamadi** attend our clinic. Serious cases are tramsferred to Stanley Hospital and treated.

In the George Town area the League helped the Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign under the able guidance of Dr. K. S. Sanjivi, M.D.; in the year 1951.

Preliminaries for the Anti-Kalaazar Campaign around Basin Bridge are nearly over and the work is still being carried out.

A comprehensive village survey was made.

The only well in the Cheri was repaired and improved.

The milk powder supplied by UNICEF was distributed to the deserving villagers.

With the help of USIS some interesting and instructive films were shown during December 1951. The only well in the cheri was repaired and improved.

With the co-operation of the leading hotel proprietors sweets are distributed to the children of the village. Villagers are also provided with recreation and entertainment.

A self-sufficiency scheme is being worked out and will be put into operation soon.

Donations in the form of Drugs have been received from the Lederle Laboratories, Teddington Chemical Factory, Boots Pure Drug Company and UNICHEM Laboratories.

A study of our country's problems will reveal how the economy of the typical Indian village is inextricably linked with the welfare of three-fourths of our people. Here we feel the full impact of Mahatma Gandhi's dictum that in India's villages lies her soul.

Needless to say that a work of the nature we are doing should require the support of the public as well as the Government. It cannot be disputed that the regeneration of our villages is a vital factor towards the consolidation of our national prosperity.

We are doing our best towards the amaelioration of the conditions of the poor and suffering villagers of **Alamadi**. Generous contributions in the form of money, drugs, food etc. will strengthen us and are always welcome.

P. N. SUNDARA RAMAN,
C. SRINIVASAN,

—*Secretaries*.

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Pachaiyappa's College

THIS year our league was inaugurated by no less a person than Mr. S. Mohan Kumaramangalam, a veteran in Social Service, whose profound knowledge in social sciences gave us a further incentive to work more vigorously.

Under the suspices of our league, we are conducting night schools for both adults and boys at the premises of the corporation school, Chetput, with an unprecedented success. 15 adults are given with all the necessary pre-requisites of education such as books, slates, pencils etc. We are also handling classes for boys from kindergarten standard upto eigth standard as a result of which 60 boys had the benefit of education, which they could not have had otherwise.

We are doing slum clearance work every week in Aminjikarai, which is near our college. We removed the ailing from this area to the hospitals for treatment, and orphans to the orphanage.

Thanks to the milk powder given by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, we were able to provide milk for 15 children continuously for 60 days. We have also the gifts given by C.A.R.E. through Guild of Service consisting of Rice, Wheat flour, Milk powder and sugar, to distribute them in the slums. We are very grateful to Mr. Taylor, the American Counsel, for giving these gifts.

The divisional superintendent of St. John's Ambulance was generous enough to help us in conducting our First-Aid Classes. 25 members of our league attended the classes. In this respect we thank Mr. Veeraragavan in particular for his kind acceptance to conduct the classes. A first-aid box is also at the disposal of our league to meet any contingency.

Our league has been affiliated with the following organisations (1) Guild of Service, (2) South Indian Adult Education Association (3) Madras Students' Social Service League. We had the privilege of attending and exhibiting a stall for Adult Education in Government House, Guindy in the Name of our league, where Mr. Nehru visited to see the Social Service Organisations existing in Madras City, arranged by the Guild of Service. We had been recipients of a liberal gift of Rs. 20 by the Guild of Service last year.

Last year 30 of our members had the honour of attending the M. S. S. S. L. conference at veterinary college and our secretary tabled a resolution that a diploma course should be instituted at the Madras University which after a considerable discussion was adopted and passed unanimously. 20 of our members attended the certificate course conducted by M. S. S. S. L. and all of them were successful.

Delegates also were sent to the Adult Education Conference held at Rajaji Hall, Mount Road, to represent our league. Our league is running a small library and has received books and magazines free of cost from S.I.A.E.A.

We are proud to say that during the year we have enrolled more than 120 members each paying Rs. 2 per annum.

The Annual Day of our League was celebrated on 8th Feb. '52. Our Vice-Principal Mr. R. N. Selvam presided over the meeting. Dr. V. K. John addressed the members of our league on 'welfare state' and Mrs. Radha of Q. M. C. distributed the prizes and certificates to all the members of the league.

Thus 3 years have elapsed since the inception of social service league in our Hostel. Since then, the volume of its work has been amplified greatly and its scope increased to a large extent. The need for such a league has become important in coping up with the many problems confronting us.

P. BALARAMAN,
Student Chairman.

D. ANNAMALAI,
V. KANDASAMY,
Secretaries.

Law College

(*Report from July to October, '52*)

Patron: Hon'ble Sri P. V. Rajamannar,
Chief Justice,
High Court, Madras.

President: Sri T. Anantha Babu,
Advocate & Part-time Lecturer,
Law College.

THE Law College Social Service League started its second year activity in an atmosphere of enthusiasm and enterprise. Our beloved patron and principal Sri S. Govindarajulu, under whose beneficient guidance we were able to do useful work last year, has left us being promoted as Director of Public Instruction. It is a matter of great pleasure to us to record, that despite his manifold preoccupations, he continues to take an active interest in our activities and makes available to us the benefit of his valuable advise whenever solicited.

It is a matter of great pride and honour to us that the Hon'ble Sri P. V. Rajamannar, Chief Justice of High Court of Madras has kindly consented to be our Patron-in-Chief and also Chairman of our Advisory Board, a new body consisting of eminent personalities which has been constituted this year in order to secure for our league the benefit of the experienced advice of veterans in the field of social service. The following have most cordially agreed to serve on the Advisory Board and we tender our heart-felt thanks to them.

Sri K. Rajah Iyer, President, Provincial Bar Federation
,, T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai, Chairman, Public Service Commission
,, C. Narasimham, Commissioner, Madras Corporation
,, Prof. G. C. V. Subba Rao

President: M.S.S.S.L. (ex-officio)
Mrs. M. N. Clubwala
Lady M. Venkata Subba Rao
Mrs. P. N. Ramaswami
„ Basheer Ahmed Syed
„ C. Chandramathi.

Our inaugural address was delivered by Smt. G. Durga Bai, Member, Planning Commission in charge of Social Services and Secretary, Bharat Sevak Samaj, she exhorted students to play their proper role in the country's affairs. She proposes to create facilities for students to participate in Community Projects and has promised to let us know about such facilities as and when they are provided.

This year we have chosen for our activities, a slum "Swatantranagar" in Lloyds Road. We are working in co-operation with S. Indian Adult Education Assn. We have selected 60 children from the slum and are distributing milk to them every evening. We are occasionally distributing other food stuffs. Our squad celebrated the Divali festival in the slum. We had the slum decorated. We arranged the distribution of sweets and crackers to all the children in the slum. Mrs. P. N. Ramaswami, wife of Justice Ramaswami, was kind enough to preside over the function and distribute the gift packets. Mrs. C. Chandramathi, ex-president, Andhra Rastra Mahila Sabha addressed the gathering. The crackers were the gift of Mrs. T. Ananta Babu. We hereby tender our thanks to all of them. We propose to give dresses to all the children of the slum in the near future.

In the field of literacy we have started adult education classes. The corporation authorities have been kind enough to permit us the use of the corporation school opposite "Swatantra nagar", and we are grateful for the same.

A course in first aid training is being arranged in our college with the co-operation of the Madras Red Cross Society, and we expect a large number of students to take advantage of the same.

Our scheme of activities for the year is under six heads and is as follows:

Slum clearance & Rural uplift: We propose to lay a road in our slum, the manual labour being provided by our students. The corporation authorities have been approached and are considering suitable means of co-operation. We have also decided to lay out a small park in our slum and expect to have it ready by December. We also propose to white-wash the slum houses if our funds permit.

Child Welfare Scheme: Apart from the daily distribution of milk we intend to investigate the feasibility of giving the children one good meal every week. We propose to have them medically examined and properly treated if treatment is desirable or necessary.

Co-operation: Coordination & Public relations: It is our earnest desire to keep in frequent touch with other student social service leagues to hold frequent discussions with them to watch them at work and to learn. Ours is comparatively an infant league and we are not unaware of the fact that there are other social service leagues from whom we have much to learn. We believe that greater co-operation amongst the various collegiate social service leagues will result in greater constructive activity and

we intend to explore all possible avenues to ensure such co-operation.

Adult Education & Literacy Campaign : We have started a night school in Telugu, we propose to start one in tamil soon.

Magazine : We started a magazine last year. The idea has been much appreciated and its popularity is indicated by the very fact that several other leagues propose to start similar magazines. We earnestly trust that the co-operation of all leagues will be extended to our magazine. With regard to the leagues contemplating bringing out magazine, we wish them good luck.

Meetings & Conferences : We propose to celebrate a welfare week provided all factors are propitious. The idea is to have instructional lecturers, film shows etc. to educate the student population in various aspects of social service.

V. RADHAKRISHNAMURTHY,

Secretary.

Veterinary College

THE League was formed in 1949 as a part of the College Union. Even now it remains a part of the Union, and the finances of the League are looked into by the Union. The League made a humble start with only half a dozen members, but now it has swelled upto more than 100. But if a list of Active Members is taken it will only be half the total membership.

The activities of the League are more or less confined to the surrounding slums viz. the naval Hospital Area and Choolai. In the former there are a number of Khazagams (socio-cultural socities) and the League works in close co-operation with these Khazagams. There is a Night School for children, the strength of which is about 150. At present the school is conducted under the canopy of Heaven! The construction of a shed to house the school is under consideration but the difficulty lies in raising funds for same. Many have promised to help and we hope that our dream, of a shed to house the school, will come true in a couple of years.

An Adult Night School is also run where both Tamil and Telugu are taught. Every week the students go round the slums and talk to the dwellers about personal hygiene and sanitation. The health of the slum people, especially children is improving.

Being Veterinary Students, we are thinking of doing Social Service to animals also! A plan is being drawn up for the same. The idea is to give treatment to animals around the city suburbs. We are trying to get Medicines for the same. We hope that we may be able to put it into practice from next year onwards.

With our motto "Service Before Self" we are trying to do what little we can for both men and animals.

N. KINGSLEY RAJ,

Secretary.

CONTEMPORARY
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The Presidency College

THE activities of the Presidency College Social Service League may be divided broadly into five sections, (a) Educational, (b) Slum visiting (c) Promotion of Social Life, (d) Hospital visits, (e) co-operation with other social service organisations.

(*a*) Educational :

The league is conducting a night school in the college where the members of the league do the teaching by turns during six days in a week, from 6-30 to 8 p.m. The members are busy preparing continuation reading material for the use of Neo-literates in all the four South Indian languages. About seventy books are ready in all the languages put together. The league members are interested in the spread of education in slums. They have presented books, slates etc. to all the school going children in a cheri and are planning to start an adult literacy centre.

(*b*) Slum visiting :

The members of the league visit two slums Locknagar and fishermans kuppam every week. We have arranged one film entertainment so for, and another will be following soon. We promote co-operation among slum dwellers and lead a party from fisherman's kuppam to Locknagar for the film entertainment. The league has helped three slum dwellers in rebuilding their houses by giving free voluntary unskilled labour and financial assistance for buying materials.

(*c*) Promotion of Social Life :

The league has taken steps to promote social life in the college by organising a community centre in one of the science departments. It gives a free mid-day meal to the low paid staff in the departments. The funds, for providing mid-day meal on all the working days to the five members, are obtained from the students, staff and the low paid staff themselves in the same department. The centre is tending to become self-sufficient. It is hoped that the activity would soon be extended to other departments also.

The league members have been permitted to visit the General Hospital so that they may do service to the patients by way of writing letters etc. The members would soon be availing of the facilities accorded.

The league is affiliated to the Madras Students' Social Service Leage. It has co-operated with it in its activities and also with the activities of social service Leagues of The Stanley Medical College, Kattupakkam Sivananda Saraswathi Sevashram, Loyola College Social Service League, etc. and helped them in the sale of tickets for the performances organised by them.

Md. IBRAHIM,
Secretary.

Engineering College

Patron :—Mrs. S. Paul.

Convener :—S. Kaliyaperumal.

THE Engineering College Social Service League was started in 1948 with only 15 active members on the roll and continues to make steady progress in the field of its activities. At present the League has got 50 active members among whom an Executive Committee consisting of 10 members with a Convener forms a part.

The League conducts a Night School for the Picker Boys employed in this College and other children from the neighbouring villages. The strength of this school is 40 and classes are conducted everyday from 6-30 to 8 P.M., by the members of the League by turns. The attendance and progress of the Night School is much encouraging. The League feeds these Night School children periodically and provides them with soap and oil. The League also provides them all with clothes on the Republic Day Celebrations.

In addition, the members of the League pay periodical visits to the nearby villages of Varadapuram, Kalikunram and Govindarajapuram, where they organise public meetings and impress upon the villagers the principles of hygiene and sanitation and arouse political, social, ecnomic and civic consciousness among them. The League also is encouraging and helping the efficient running of the Adult Night Schools and and Night Schools for Children, conducted by the Village Uplift Association of Varathapuram and of Kalikunram.

A special feature of the League is the celebration of the Republic Day when sports are conducted for about 350 children both boys and girls, from the neighbouring villages and when light refreshments and sweets are served to them. Prizes awared to the winners in the various items of sports are mostly in the form of clothes. This, indeed, brings cheer and hope among the children of our Night School and those of the neighbouring villages.

One noteworthy feature of the efforts of the League is the donation from the students for the Rayalaseema Famine Relief Fund of 300 Madras measures of Ragi, grown in the students' Power Farm, 1,500 visses of palmyrah jaggery made in the College under the Students' Co-operative Society from the palmyrah trees in the college compound and a donation of Rs. 565/- from the members of staff.

The League is self-supporting and has been depending entirely on the kind donation given by students and members of staff of our College. Sometimes the League gets donation from the Regional Associations of this College. The students and staff are evincing great interest in the activities of League and it is expected that the work of the League will grow from strength to strength, year after year.

League is affiliated to the Guild of Service (Central).

S. KALIYAPERUMAL,

Convener.

Stella Maris College

OUR Social Service League consists of all voluntary workers among the student body. Our field of activity is the Lalita Nagar Cheri, which is located very near our college. The members of the League form the General body while the office-bearers form the executive. Besides, there are finance committee and the medical aid committee.

The League is divided into six groups consisting of nine girls each, and, each group visits the cheri on the day allotted to it. Work in the cheri is carried on, on all days except Fridays. Out of the nine in a group two are entrusted with medical care. Thus twelve girls make up the medical aid committee.

Our work consists of Medical aid, lessons in sewing and embroidery and to read and write. These lessons are given to both youngsters and elders in two private houses where our pupils meet for the purpose. We have been able so far to achieve some good results out of our work. We are glad to say that one of the ladies has made quite a bit of progress with her English, for she is very eager to learn that language. The medical aiders go round to houses daily to help those suffering from minor illnesses and troubles. Cases beyond our medical knowledge are admitted into the General Hospital. Here we would like to point out an instance when a completely blind girl recovered her eye-sight at the General Hospital with the help of the League.

One of the important activities of our league this year was the admission of 30 children into the cathedral school free of fees. On this occasion sets of new clothes and books were provided for all of them. Regular games are also conducted for them in the cheri premises every evening. Egg powder and milk powder were distributed daily to women and children.

We have also started a co-operative bank for the league. This lens small loans to those poor women who are eager to start a small scale of business on their own, for instance an idli shop. The loan is recovered in monthly instalments of four annas by the bank. The finance committee and the treasurer are held responsible for the funds. The finance committee also collects a weekly subscription of one anna from every student.

We have been able to erect a small hut for our league in the cheri grounds. To celebrate that occasion and also Rev. Mother Principal's feast day, a variety entertainment consisting of dances and songs was got up by the cheri children. This pleasant surprise was welcomed heartely by our Principal and the students.

This year, a new post graduate course in social science has been opened. The students of this course do much beneficial work of their own accord in the cheri which I do not deem necessary to report here.

The work rendered by the League has so far bettered the conditions of the cheri, that the People willingly cooperate with. us in our endeavours. Favoured by real conducive circumstances, we hope to uplift the standards of the cheri in every sphere of life in future.

MISS. C. V. NAMAGIRI,
Secretary.

Government Arts College.

President :—Sri K. Swaminathan, M.A., B.L., B.A. (Oxon).
Vice-Presidents :—Sri Ignatius Absalom, M.A.,
Sri P. R. Minakshisundaram Pillai, M.A.
Secretary :—A. M. K. Thiruvenkatachari, IV B.A.
Joint Secretary :—Abdul Waheed. III B.A.

THE Sava samaj was formed in 1949. It is doing goodwork both within Madras and in rural areas. The Samaj provides a most profitable experience for the staff and the students of this college in the field of social service. Members meet every Tuesday and Friday afternoons at 1. 45 p.m. to consider the programme of work.

Rural Service camps :—In the summer vacation 1952 (May and June we organised a social (Adult) Education camp at Tirukkachur under the able leadership of Sri P. R. Minakshisundaram Pillai. Eight students stayed in Tirukkachur for forty days, and the Adult Literacy campaign was successfully done in three Cheris–Thirukkachur, Peramanur and Panangottur. In the Cheri at Tirukkachur, the volunteers themselves constructed with mud, pebbles and granite stones a building (Diamensions 30'×12'×6') for the Literacy Centre. This building was opened by The Hon'ble Sri S. B. Pattabhi Rama Rao, the Minister for Rural Welfare. Our volunteers were most enthusiastic in the camp, and the villagers gave a hearty welcome to them. The villagers always co-operated with our work. In the Literacy drive, 43 in Thirukkachur Cheri, 12 in Panangottur cheri and 31 in Peramanur cheri have been made literates. Street cleaning, health education, spinning, construction of trench latrines etc, were the other important activities in our camp.

Hospital visiting service :—This is one of the main activities of the Samaj, and is a regular and prominent feature throughout the year. Our volunteers visit the General Hospital, and the Ophthalmic Hospital on Saturdays and Sundays; and with the co-operation of the Guild service they help the patients and arrange entertainments for them. An excellent entertainment was arranged on 25–10–52 in Tambaram T. B. Hospital. The patients were given every possible help by way of post-cards and letters written on their behalf. The collection of old Vernacular Magazines and distribution of these among the patients of the Hospitals is one of our important services.

The Night School :—The Night School for Boys and adults has been conducted most efficiently throughout the year within the college premises. The average attendance in the college Night School is 32; and 7 volunteers under the guidance of Abdul Waheed of III B. A. class are doing most efficient work.

The Night Schools at Mackay's Garden slum, in Pudupet, The Harijan Free Night School at St. Thomas Mount and The Gokulam Harijan Hostel are also helped by our volunteers, every week. Batches of our

students are helping the concerned institutions in running the night-School regularly and successfully.

On 15th August, '52 (Independence Day) Our volunteers Rasheed Mohammed, Kulsekaran and C. Govindaraj visited Thirukkachur, and cooperated with the people in the celebration of the day. They also distributed sweets to about 300 children in the three cheris. Sweets also were distributed among the children in Sivarajapuram, in Gokulam Hostel, in Mackay's Garden, and to the Boys attending the college Night-School.

Co-Operation with the Guild of Service :—The Seva Samaj has renewed its affiliation with the Guild of Service, Madras. Through the Guild, we were able to secure two CARE parcels and 58 lbs. of Egg Powder. We prepared Rice Porridge out of the Rice, Milk powder and Sugar, and distributed same to the poor children in Sivarajapuram, Mackay's Garden and to the Night School children in the college. We distributed 10 lbs. of wheat flour to the immates of Gokulam Hostel. With the 58 lbs. of Egg powder we prepared dosai and omlette, and distributed the same to the poor children in the Mackay's Garden, to the Fishermen children in Santhome and to our Night School children.

Money collection by sale of tickets :—We have given our unstinted co-operation in this direction, and raised quite good sums of money for the Provincial Welfare Fund; and by sale of tickets for various social service institutions. like The M.S.S.S. League, Bharati Free Ele-School; Social service League stanley Medical college, Madras Medical college Rural wing etc.—

Film shows :—The Junior chamber of commerce" was shown by U.S.I.S. in Sivarajapuram on 22-8-52.

Meetings : —This year Mr. V. A. Chandran of Y. M. C. A. inaugurated the Samaj. Dr. J. S. Redding, the American Negro Professor addressed the Samaj workers. On 11-8-52 and on 21-8-52. Mrs. H. K. Philip of the Nutrition Department of the Woman's christian college, Madras, spoke on "Balanced Diet and Vitamins"

During the month of November speeches were given by, Dr. S. E. D. Masilamani, Health Officer, Corporption of Madras on Health administration in the city", Mrs. Mary Shaw on "Service to Society" and Mr. S. A. Ayyangar I. C. S., Inspector General of Prisons on "After Care of Prisoner."

Library Voluntary service and clinical work :—A batch of five students are working in the college library as part-time workers, and a batch of four students are helping the college doctor. Our volunteer P. Ramachandran is daily assisting the doctor and is learning compounding work. We have a special library of books on social service, and these are issued to our members for the study of the different aspects of Social service.

Co-operation with the M.S.S.S.L. league : We are co-operating with the League in all their activities. The League organised a workers' camp at Tambaram form 24th Sept : to 30th Sept : 1952, and the following students helped the League in constructing a building for a rural dispensary :—Kathiresan, Arasu, Ekambaram, Parameswaran and Venkatachari. The third annual conference of M. S. S. S. L. was held in Govt. Arts. College.

Visits to gather information:—Two of our volunteers, P. K. Srinivasan and Sivagnanam visited Tayyur on 30-8-52 and on 18-10-52 to gather information about night school in that area and to arrange for our camp during the next summer vacation. For the activities of the Samaj, we are collecting Re. 1/- every year from every student of our college. We are Sending a Delegate for the 6th inter national Conference of Social workers being held in Madras.

It may now be said, that the Seva Samaj has come to stay as a most useful body of voluntary workers in and for the college. We hope to increase our sphere of work, and make ourselves a little more useful to all people both in and outside Madras.

Ethiraj College.

THE Social Service League of the Ethiraj College formed with the sincere purpose of contributing their mite for helping the helpless around, has a large support from its members this year also.

At the outset itself the South Cooum Cheri was chosen as the field of work for this year. The members visit the cheri in groups and talk with the people making them feel at home. By way of entertainment and instruction films based on cleanliness, diet, and health, were shown, through the help of the U. S. I. S. Children who do not have the means to attend school are brought to college twice a week and are taught the three 'Rs'.

Some evenings are spent in games and story telling Sports are held and prizes awarded to the winners.

Their physical needs are not forgotten. They were given either milk and plaintains or rice. This was made possible through the CARE Gift we received, and also through the contribution of the members of the League.

A sum of money is set apart to help the servants of the college with loans free of interest.

We intend starting an adult literacy campaign in the near future. We look forward with hopes to render greater and more useful service and to play, thus, a part in the building of the nation.

MISS. V. BHARGAVI,
Secretary.

St. Christopher's Training College

THE students of St. Christopher's Training College take active part in social service. The following are the places where this work is done. Mental hospital, Ophthalmic hospital, Y.M.C.A. Boy's Town-an orphanage, Aryan lane-a slum, and Y.W.C.A., as well as, in the newly organised Mohite grounds.

Once in a week we visit these centres. We work among the children and as well as adults-for example in mental hospital and ophthalmic hospital we visit regularly. On every Friday we go to the mental hospital and spend two hours with the female patients. We chat and play with them and teach

them Kummi and songs and at ophthalmic hospital our Telugu students help the patients by writing letters.

When we go to do social wôrk among the children, we play with them teach songs and tell them interesting stories.

Social work at these centres was started by our college many years ago. Students of the past years and the present take much intereset in maintaining the progress of this league. Great changes have been brought about by our people at these different centres and we hope to do our *best* in future.

Miss. SANTHIAPPA,
President.

Sir Theagaraya College

I have great pleasure in presenting the report of Social Service League of Sir Theagaraya College. Our College was founded in the year 1951. We are having a corporation slum near the college hostel namely "Swathantrapuram". There, we are taking Adult Education and tuition classes to the needy school children. There we have built *by our own manual labour, a hut* for the purpose of carrying on the classes daily at night from 7 to 8-30 P. M.

Near by our college there is an orphanage, "Varadhappa Naicken House" for children. There, we are visiting often and giving them help and service. On festival occasions we used to go there to distribute sweets and biscuits to make them happy and cheerful.

In Swathantrapuram we are doing slum cleaning and teaching them some moral stories and songs.

With this I am concluding this report.

N. GOPALAKRISHNA,
Secretary.

Teachers College, Saidapet

Our league was started in 1950. All students of the B. T., shortened B. T. and Pandits' Training courses, in the college are subscribing members of the College Social Service League, paying a subscription of four annas per term collected at the beginning of the year. The principal is the President of the League. Along with a Secretary and a student representative from each course, selected at the beginning of the year, the Standing Committee of the League is formed. The Free Adult Night School conducted under the auspices of the college offers opportunities to the college students to render well-defined and sustained voluntary social service during the period of their study in the College. Particularly this year it is proposed, to go to a village for sanitary work and in the night to entertain the villagers with folk songs and dances. Sweets will be distributed among the people in the village after the sanitary work. Some health principles and uses of Adults' schools will be explained to them by speeches and songs. Other service projects may be oreanised and conducted by Standing Committee of the League.

B. MALLESU,
Secretary.

Students and Social Work in other countries

BRITAIN :—Basic Social work has been undertaken by the state. The various undergraduate organisations perform an amount of valuable service among the poorer and less previleged members of the society, in youth centres. The masses of the people are city dwellers and the rift between students and the rest of the population never runs the risk of being a wide one. A very large percentage of University students in Britain are themselves from working class families. They do social work as voluntary workers or as students of University courses in social studies.

In order to encourage the study of social science, a diploma in Social studies was established in 1934 in the University of Dublin. Such a diploma is a necessary primary qualification for many branches of social work, both under public authorities and voluntary organisations.

The form of practical work done in such intitutions is classified as (1) **Group Work** :— (a) Discussions (b) Visits to social service agencies

(2) **Individual Work** :—

1st Year :—Students are attached to either a children's home, nursery centre or a play ground. They are also required to attend juvenile courts.

Work in connection with canteens, clothing societies, clubs for the unemployed etc. is also arranged.

2nd Year :—The students are attached to a hospital or to a voluntary society as home visitors and are required to attend hospital clinics throughout the session.

In addition they are required to make a choice of :—

(a) Working in the office of a voluntary society.
(b) Working in a youth club.
(c) Doing "90 hours" in the outpatient department of a hospital.
(d) Rent collecting for social service tenements.

All students are required to attend first aid lectures. An annual examination is held at the end of June.

Oxford house which is one of the University settlements in the East End of London has a very interesting record of work. In their annual report for 1951-52 they say "when in 1884, the Oxford University house was established in Bethnal Green, living conditions for the great majority of the people in the Borough were intolerable, and the men who first came to work in the community were, indeed, settlers if not missionaries. They came from outside to bring influence for betterment, and the spirit which animated and guided them was a christian one. Their task was to bridge the gap between the privileged few and the poverty sticken many......

In seventy years or so, which have passed since the beginnings of the settlement movement, conditions have—thank God—completely changed...... Now the residents and staff of the settlements

are no longer outsiders but partners in the common task of creating new forms of community life".

World University Service Organisation is an international organisation of the entire University Community for both students and teachers, which aims at rendering service to meet, intelletual, cultural and material needs. British branch of W. U. S. is doing very good work among the student community in organising student health schemes, co-operative projects, International Summer Universities etc.

CHINA:—The present day Chinese youth is perhaps more active than the youth of many other countries. The China New Democratic Youth League has branches in nearly all the secondary schools and colleges. Members of the league are pledged to become model students. The vast rural areas of china which are undergoing rejuvenation, attract them in thousands. In all the many stages of the Chinese People's long drawn out struggle for national liberation and independence the youth have played an outstanding part. In rural districts, winter schools, where country folks congregate in large numbers, are efficiently run by young pupils and these "little teachers" have won wide fame for their diligence and patience.

New China's Youth are learning to esteem labour through their own toil. In the process of training themselves to serve the working people they gradually overcome the weaknesses typical of students elsewhere. An example of students' Social work is the renovation of a park in one of the towns in the North East China. Students form 18 colleges and high schools organised construction teams and in ten days of volunteer labour the once dilapidated park and athletic field were restored. Here the students now enjoy the fruits of their own labour and they saved the People's Government a huge sum of money. Throughout the country students have engaged in such manual labour as their contribution to national reconstruction.

On their own initiative or at the call of the youth league or students' associations they take a hand in cleaning up their school buildings or make use of vacant grounds in the school to grow vegetables for their own consumption.

The campaign to utilise spare time to increase food production is being vigorously supported by the young people in the schools and other institutions.

Another important aspect of social work of the students are their services to the workers, peasants and fighters of the People's Liberation Army by maintaining humane contacts with their families and educating them.

There are student self-governing bodies in every institution which take decisions on anything connected with students. The youth of the country is educated to love and respect labour so that they may grow up as useful men and women, and serve the people understanding that the interests of the people as a whole are greater than those of any individual.

CANADA:—There are in existence many voluntary organisations in Canada whose efforts are directed to social welfare. The various youth organisations do a considerable amount of good work.

Activities in the field of Adult Education are increasing rapidly throughout the country. They range from formal academic studies, vocational guidance and technical training to citizenship classes, discussion groups and recreation clubs. Provincial departments of Education and the Extension Departments of the University have lately taken vigorous steps towards making Adult Education available to Canada's scattered population. In Canada adult education operates under a highly complicated organization and involves the efforts of voluntary groups and associations, school participation at all levels and considerable government effort. Student self governments have been introduced in the University.

AUSTRALIA :—There are two Student Organisatious in Australia, rendering Social work.

One run by the Students of the University of Westrern Australia is known as the "Camp for Children" Society, to which students of all Faculties and Departments can be members, although the Society was initiated by the Psychology Department. The purpose of the society is to hold a camp for underprivileged children, free of charge, in the summer months at a seaside resort. Students act as tutors and supervisors at the camp. Funds for the camp are raised by appeal both within the University and outside to the General Public; it is aimed each year to raise approximately £ 300 to cover the cost of keeping 80 to 100 children for a week. This is not necessarily a permanent organisation.

In Sydney, the students and staff co-operate to run an organisation known as the University Settlement, which assists needy children and old people in the area close to the University.

—*M. K. K.* (*By Courtsey of Foreign Embassies in India*)

Our First Rural Service Work Camp at Old Tambaram Village

The first Rural Service Work Camp (from 24-9-'52 to 30-9-'52) conducted by The Madras Students' Social Service League, though a novel step, in the right direction, was a grand experience.

A team of twelve members including a staff member from Madras Christian College (Mr. Paul David M.A.) and a mason from the village participated. The work at hand was a dispensary building 15' × 12' in Old Tambaram village, Madras Christian College Rural Service Centre. The first trench dug was after observing a few minutes silence for the success of the project. Prof. Chandran Devanesan, Head of the Department of History, Madras Christian college, and an Ex-treasurer of The Madras Students Social Service League was present at the occasion.

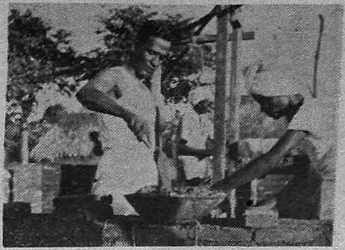
The foundation of the building was a tough job using old implements on hard ground. However, the building had a good foundation of about 4 to 4½ ft. deep. The superstructure was in bricks and mud. Though we had only one mason by profession in our team

★

FIRST RURAL SERVICE WORK CAMP AT OLD TAMBARAM VILLAGE

★

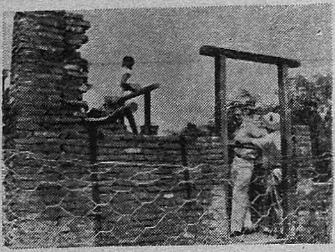
Door is in Position !



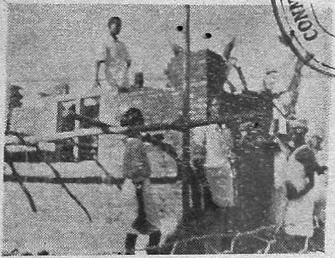
Economics through masonary

Promising B'layers armed with tools !
—A pose for the Camera.

Getting Dark ?

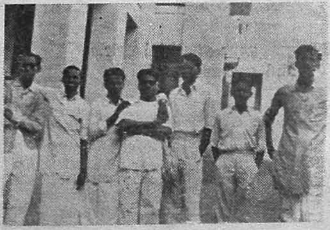


Moral support from 'abroad'



What is happening ?

Hurry up please !



Here, we return to the city !

Photos by :— Mr. Paul David & M. K. Karunakar.

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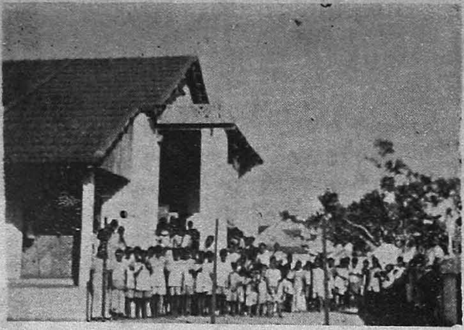
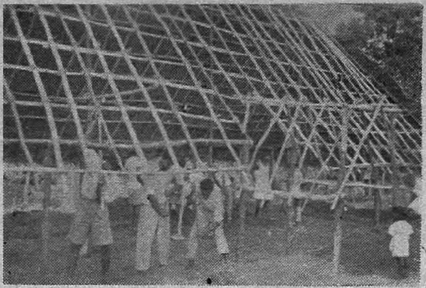
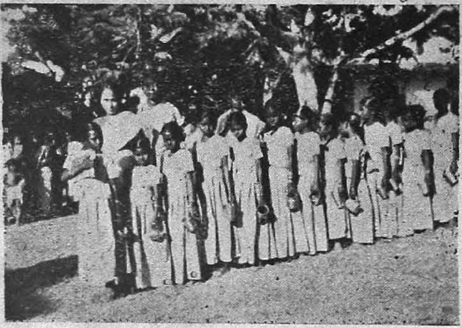
S. S. L. Elementary School (Q. M. C.)



(1)

Shed for Elementary School under construction —Old Tambaram Village (Christian College).





(2)

Lalita Nagar Cheri (Stella Maris College)

(Please see reports)

The Third Annual Conference of Madras Students' Social Service League.

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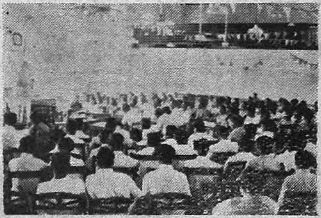
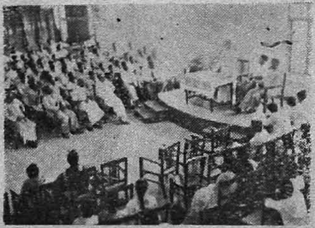
MADRAS



"No room for Complacency"

"Give me your youthful spirit and enthusiasm"

"Combine leisure and service"



Conference Photos by :—Mr. Thanka Raj.

a few of us rose to the occasion to be amateur masons, especially, Mr. Paul David and Mr. Rasheed Mohammed turned out to be skilled masons. Mr. Ekambaram and Mr. Scudder proved to be good and promising apprentices in the trade. Water for the work had to be carried from a well a few furlongs away from the work site and some of us specialised in the task of carrying water. The work of the walls was completed in one week.

Though short, we had an intense camp life in every respect except for the night shelter which was under the roof of the magnificient hostel buildings of Christian College. The work site was about 1½ to 2 miles away from the hostel and we had to walk the whole distance about half a dozen times a day, for our breakfast and 'khana'. Our daily schedule of work was from 6-30 A.M. to 6-30 P.M. The general feeling was that in the next camp we should live near the work-site, in tents if necessary, so that much time and and energy may be saved.

Many of our members looked so thin and fragile, still, they did a fine piece of work, of course, making due allowances for the inexperience and the novelty of the venture. When we returned, some of our friends remarked we had been made more handsome by the beautiful tanning we had by Nature's benevolent methods!

The following are the members who took part in the camp.

Mr. Paul David M.A. ...	Madras Christian College.
Mr. M.K. Karunakar ... (Student chairman MSSSL)	Stanley Medical College.
Mr. M. Raheed Mohammed (Secretary MSSSL)	Govt. Arts College.
Mr. Ekambaram ...	”
Mr. Parameswaran ...	”
Mr. Arasu ...	”
Mr. Kathiresan ...	”
Mr. Venkatachari ...	”
Mr. Scudder S.L.J. ... (Secretary, Christian College R.S.L.)	Madras Christian College.
Mr. Belliappa ...	”
Mr. Bhasker ...	”
Mr. Ramaswamy ...	”

The village Vallibhar Sangham (Youth League) gave invaluable co-operation.

There is no deliverance and no hope without sacrifice, discipline and self-control. —Mahatma Gandhi.

We have to bear in mind that we are all debtors to the world and the world does not owe us anything. It is a great privilege for all of us to be allowed to do anything for the world. In helping the world we really help ourselves.

—Swami Vivekananda.

The Third Annual Conference of Madras Students' Social Service League.

THE Third annual Conference of the M.S.S.S.L. was held at Govt. Arts College on saturday, 1st November 1952. The theme was "social service & its problems". The conference was well-attended by a large member of delegates from the various colleges affiliated to the League. The proceedings started at 10 a.m. **Mrs. G. Parthasarathi** President, M. S. S. S. L. gave the welcome address. **Miss. K. N. Brockway** then Inaugurated the conference. She was glad to see that the Madras colleges had affiliated themselves to this league, and congratulated them on the work they had done and the work they were going to do. . She remarked how, in England; there was a vast difference between conditions 40 years ago and that of today, brought about by the enthusiasm and hard work of social workers and economists. What was possible in one place might be possible elsewhere if there was united effort.

Miss. Brockway said that students should develop scientific minds and merciful hearts, showing no trace of superiority in their approach to less fortunate fellow citizens. Students should do social service only in their leisure hours; college work should come first. Often, the only social work students had time to do was to raise money for someone else to do the work. Yet they themselves could occasionally devote time to slum clearance and adult education. However, they should not get depressed if there were obstacles in the way. There were signs of encouragement, in and around the city. There was the school of social work, the University social work Diploma and the Community Projects which the Government have started to bring relief and betterment to villagers—all these were deeply encouraging. Miss Brockway wished the M. S. S. S. L. all success, and appealed to the students to go ahead and work together.

Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam then spoke: He said that in his day, when students discussed their rights and the means of securing them, politics crept in. He was glad students now took to social work with greater zeal, and that they had been able to achieve good results. He congratulated the Madras students on taking an active part in the social work done in the city. They could do Social Service only out of college hours and they needed finance and guidance for their activities. This social service done after class hours however, instilled a sense of discipline in them.

He had learnt that the Medical College social service League was doing rural medical relief in villages nearby. The Bharat sevak samaj proposed to make available, a mobile medical van to those who were engaged in social service of this kind. This was an instance of how the Bharat sevak samaj could step in and help those who were engaged in such activities.

Miss C. Coelho then proposed a vote of thanks.

There was a short interval during which tea was served to everybody. The delegates then broke up into

groups for sectional discussions on following problems:—Slums, Adult Education, Social Education, Public Health, Rural welfare, the Individual and Society. (Reports of the commissions have been given on another page of the journal.) After the sectional discussions lunch was served to all the delegates.

At 2-30 p.m. there was a general body meeting presided by **Mr. M. K. Karunakar**, the Student Chairman of the League. The secretaries of the various colleges read the reports of the work done by their college social service leagues. Then followed the reading of the reports of the sectional discussions. As a result of these discussions, various resolutions had been taken. These resolutions were read out and passed by the general assembly. The delegates had some interesting and novel moments when a representative from Kailasapuram Cheri, Q. M. C. Social Service centre, was garlanded and welcomed to the conference, to let the delegates know what the slum dwellers felt about the students' work. A vote of thanks was proposed by **Miss. M. Colaco.**

There was another short interval for tea and at 5 p.m., the members met once again for the Public Meeting. **Sri C. Subramaniam,** Minister for Finance and food, presided at the meeting. The speaker was **Sri C. Narasimhan** Commissioner, Corporation of Madras. **Mrs. G. Parthasarathi** welcomed the gathering. She observed that so many people were engaging themselves in social service today and that they laid more stress on reporting their activities than on actual work. Social service she said was so far done as an extra-curricular activity. It might be a good idea to do social service in the afternoon after having done some good study at college in the morning. Leisure and service could be combined. College dramatic societies could collect money towards social service activities.

Mr. Subramaniam said that the finance minister's job was not merely to give but to take. If he could give nothing, he hoped to take something from the students that he might do his job better. He was glad to see that Education was becoming not merely a preparation for a job but, rather, a preparation to face the everyday problems of life. He was glad that the idea of students doing social service had come to stay. The object of social service could only be achieved by the hard work of the people and not by the government. College educated students were better placed than others for doing social service, but in doing this they should have a certain amount of humility. He hoped that the years to come would show greater progress in the activities of the League.

Mr. C. Narasimhan, commissioner of the Madras Corporation said that social service was service rendered in order to help people to help themselves. They should not be patronising in their manner and should be prepared for insults, non-co-operation and occasional abuses. Only then could any real change take place.

Mr. Narasimhan pointed out that all the important Social Service Leagues in Great Britain were voluntary. They had done so much work that it had attracted the attention of the Government who had given much valuable help to the organizations. In India there were many problems. Slum clerance and Adult Education were

the most important. Mr. Narasimhan outlined the steps taken by the corporation to improve conditions. Co-operation on the part of the people was essential, and he was sure that sustained social work by groups of people would gradually improve matters. Mr. Narasimhan suggested that students might visit slums near their colleges and explain to the slum-dwellers how to use the amenities provided for them by the corporation. This service would be greatly appreciated by the corporation and later by the people themselves.

Mr. Ignatius Absalom stressed the need for the study of rural problems.

Mr. M. Rasheed Mohammed, secretary proposed a vote of Thanks and the day's proceedings came to a close.

(MISS.) M. COLACO,

Secretary—M.S.S.S.L.

Reports of Sectional Discussions on:

Slums.

Leaders :—S. R. Venkat Raman.
Prof. I. Absalom.

Secretary :—Miss. C. V. Namagiri.

Mr. Venkat Raman introduced the slum problem of the city. He suggested the starting of a university settlement in one of the slums as an experimental measure for the social, moral and material advancement of the slum people. A work centre where the slum people can come and work during their leisure hours and thus add a little to their poor income was one of the suggestions. Small industries like envelope making, manufacture of file covers and pin cushions, spinning and weaving were recommended as types of work to be adopted in the work centre. The need of the social worker settling himself in the slum he works, was pointed out.

Mr. Absalom advocated community kitchen. He suggested that slum work has much scope because of the financial backing which could be expected from the corporation authorities. He suggested that Adult education may be made more interesting by staging I act plays, story telling, discussions on current topics etc.

Delegates from various colleges explained the nature of work they do.

Special Exphasis was laid on the following points :

(1) Laying of roads in slums.

(2) Improvement of sanitary conditions.

(3) Teaching the slum dwellers personal hygiene and prevention of communicable diseases.

Recommendations :

The commission recommended that :-

(1) Students residing in and near about Swatantra Nagar in Loyd's road shall join and co-operate with the Law College Social Service League in its work of laying roads and other undertakings involving manual labour.

(2) A course in first aid and simple home nursing be arranged with the help of Red-cross society.

(3) The womens welfare department be requested to help M.S.S.S.L. to start a cottage industry centre in slums.

(4) M.S.S.S.L. shall take up one or two city slums under its direct concern and run a community centre with the help of the corporation authorities.

Adult Education:

Leader :—A. G. Vilva Roy.
Prof :—P. R. Meenakshi Sundaram Pillai.
Secretary :—Miss. S. Kamala.

Mr. Vilva Roy said that our aim should be to make every adult a literate and an efficient citizen. He said adult education centres can be started in colleges and other educational institutions during vacations using college equipments and furniture. The slogan "Each one teach one" was asked to be put into practice. It was pointed out that students can in many cases excel professional teachers in point of general all round knowledge and they could do some real adult education work by managing night schools. He said if the education is to be made attractive to adults it should be punctuated with some enjoyment. Reading posters and advertisements which are usually printed in big letters are recommended as the first step. Information film shows were also advocated. He pointed out that students can render great help in the movement of adult education by utilising their spare hours for it. Active discussions were made on the subject.

Mr. Meenakshi Sundaram Pillai expressed high appreciation of the level of the discussions and paid a tribute to the enthusiasm of students.

Recommendations:

The commission Recommended that:

(1) M.S.S.S.L. shall run an Adult Edutation institute during the ensuing summer holidays in one of the city colleges.

(2) M.S.S.S.L. shall organise "each one teach one" clubs throughout the city with the aid of a paid worker assisted by batches of student volunteers.

(3) Every one of the city colleges shall have an adult education squad.

(4) Each college shall run a forty days' camp during summer holidays with special emphasis on adult education.

(5) M.S.S.S.L. shall arrange to form and encourage a "student" writer's association for writing the literature for adult education.

(6) M.S S.S.L. shall arrange to get on loan audio-visual and other film-strip projectors for the use of the various college social service leagues.

Social Education:

Leader :—Mrs. Radha.
Mrs. Lakshmi Ammal.
Secretary :—A. M. K. Tiruvenkatachari.

Mrs. Radha while leading the discussions said the essential difference between Social Education and Adult Education is only in the out-look. The objects of social education as defined in the final report of The Adult (social) Education Committee of the central advisory board of education were made known to the delegates.

They were:—

(1) To instil a consciousness of the rights and duties of citizenship and foster a spirit of service to the community.

(2) To develop a taste for democracy and impart an understanding of the way in which democracy functions.

(3) To develop taste for and a pride in our cultural heritage through the knowledge of our history, geography and culture.

(4) To teach the simple law of personal and community health and also develop habits of hygiene and cleanliness.

(5) To foster the growth of the co-operative spirit as a way of Life.

(6) To provide cultural and recreational facilities by way of folk dances, dramas, music, poetry recitations and other ways of spontaneous self-expression.

The leader said the greatest service the student can do is to line up with the masses and realise their difficulties. She gave an idea of the working of the university settlement in U. K. and similar organizations in the continent and appealed to students to organize themselves on similar lines to carry on the programme of social education.

Mrs. Lakshmi Ammal in her speech said that social education is not only literacy work but education as a whole. Literacy work is a part of social education. Social education is a wider programme, literacy is only a way of knowledge. One of the purposes of social education is education of all without class or caste distinctions.

Delegates took active part in the discussion and a good number of doubts were cleared.

Recommendations :

The commission recommended that:

(1) All student workers interested in social education shall meet once or twice a year to discuss the problems of social education.

(2) A summer camp of not less than six weeks to be run in a village and that a literacy campaign be included as an essential part of it.

Rural Welfare

Leaders :—Mr. S. Lakshmi Rattam Bharati.
Mrs. P. N. Ramasubramaniam.
Secretary :—Kutti Kan.

Twenty two delegates from various colleges attended.

The leaders in their introductory speeches emphasised the necessity for decentralisation in the economic, social and political spheres and suggested that the village units should be given more prominence and should shoulder greater responsibilities.

Delegates explained the nature of work they do through their college rural service leagues. After a short and interesting discussion the following recommendations were made to be passed as resolutions in the general body of the league.

Recommendations :

The Commission recommended that:

(1) The conference should recommend to the state and the university the desirability of making it obligatory on all students to render social service for a period of six months in some rural centre before they are entitled to receive their diploma or degrees.

(2) As the well-being of our country depends upon the economic well-being of our rural areas the conference should urge that student social service leagues should pay greater emphasis on rural work as a concrete measure of improving rural economic conditions, by way of encouraging cottage industries like weaving and leather works.

Individual and Society

Leader :—Prof. R. Bhaskaran.

Secretary :—Mr. K. Alala Sundaram.

Thirty delegates took part in the discussions.

Prof. Bhaskaran said that though we are social beings we are individuals as well. We have our own personal problems. The point of view he expressed was that society will take care of itself if each one takes care of himself. The society wants all kinds of people—wicked, polished, rich, social and anti-social elements. The society is based fundamentally upon differences. He said he did not believe in equality among the members of the society. He said life will be impossible if equality exists. The idea that there should be division of labour was put forth. The speaker referred to the complaining mentality prevalent among the members of the society. He advised students not to complain about lack of facilities. Mr. Bhaskaran also expressed dissatisfaction in the commercial way of approach by the government to the burning social problems of the day.

One of the delegates thought the society needs no change but the individual needs it. Another delegate put forth the view that man is essentially free and the society should not exploit his freedom. He agreed that society must be re-organised on liberal principles so that ultimately the individual and society will adjust themselves. He thought a social and psychological revolution within the individual is essential. One delegate traced the origin of the society and state. He believed in a new Social Contract Theory.

The Secretary of the commission said that the individual is not free to act as he likes because he is a slave to the environment. So any change in the individual and society should be through the environment.

Mr. Bhaskaran answering the questions raised in the discussion said that (1) society should be changed by reorganising the state (2) simultaneous endeavours on the part of both must be made to reform the individual and the society and (3) society should be reorganised concentrating principally on the indiviudal.

Recommendations :

The following resolution was passed unanimously as reccommendation : "That this sectional commission on individual and society believes that the society at present is composed of unwanted differences like economical inequality, caste, creed etc. and that it is imperative that the structure of the society should be changed in a democratic way emphasising the equality and liberty of the individual in the society."

Public Health

Leaders:—Dr. K. Sanjeevi
Dr. G. D. Veliath

Secretary:—P. N. Sunder Raman.

The leaders introduced the subject of discussion and gave preliminary talks. Health problems in the city, the whole of South India, and the role of the social worker in improving the present state of affairs were discussed. The average expectation of life in various countries were compared. Average life expectancy in India is 30 years whereas in some other countries it is 60 to 70 years. This vast difference is thought to be due to the following causes:

(1) Economic.
(2) Infectious diseases.
(3) Nutritional diseases.
(4) Psychological.
(5) Lack of proper education.

As a measure for improving the present condition health clubs are recommended to be established in each locality. Students can form health clubs in slum areas where they can look into the sanitary conditions and teach the dwellers the importance of personal hygiene and preventive aspects of the common diseases. Confidence of the various leaders of the area, good or bad, should be enlisted. Ideas of self-help and co-operation should be instilled in them. In the anti-T.B. compaign cheap type of open wards are recommended. The patient's usual food supplemented with milk and egg is recommended as diet.

Both of the leaders answered a number of questions from delegates and the discussion was lively.

Recommendations

The commission recommended that the following resolutions may be passed.

(1) This Conference invites attention to the urgent need of Blood by the Blood Banks for saving Human Lives, and appeal to all Social Service workers to donate to the Blood Bank and also to do propaganda among the city students for making similar donations.

(2) This Conference emphasize the desirability of starting Health Clubs in different parts of the city and requests the various Social Service Leagues to take necessary action.

(3) This Conference emphasize the need for effective inter-Collegiate co-operation in Public Health activities. For this purpose the Social Service League of the Medical College will work in liason with other Social Service Organisations. For convenience they shall be divided into two groups-each group being attached to one Medical College.

(4) This Conference requests the various Social Service League workers to actively participate in the campaign for the sale of Anti - TB - Seal.

(5) This Conference resolves that the representatives of various Colleges concerned with the Public Health work in their areas shall meet once a month under the auspices of the Central League.

Discussions on the above topics went on for more than two hours and what has appeared on these pages is only a very short account.

Resolutions passed at the General Body Meeting held on the occasion of 3rd Annual Conference.

(1) Recommendations of the various sectional discussions were adopted as resolutions and passed in the General Body.

(2) Other resolutions passed on the occasion are: (a) A resolution recognizing the newly formed Students' Adult Education Council. (b) Resolution recommending the employment of unemployed slum-dwellers in the respective slum improvement work.

One of the resolutions which was not passed by the General Body, was the one moved by the Pachaippa's College suggesting the future holding of the conference in one of the City Slums.

"Do not stand on a high pedestral and take five cents in your hand and say: "Here, my poor man"—but be grateful that the poorman is there, so that by making a gift to him you are able to help yourself. It is not the receiver that is blessed, but it is the giver."

—Swami Vivekananda.

Where I cannot help, I must resolutely refuse to hinder. Love never claims, it ever gives. Love ever suffers, never resents, never revenges itself. Where love is, there God is also.

—Mahatma Gandhi.

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Mrs. Radha (member of the staff, Queen Mary's College) for going through our reports and the proceedings of the conference.

For all who have done their most to see this journal published.

—EDITOR.

The Pavement-Dweller.

By

Mr. IGNATIUS ABSALOM, M.A.

AS I a saunter along the pavement keeping to the left side of the road, next to Central Station in Madras, I see life. And as you step on the platform on your first visit to Madras, you may accompany me to see this Metropolis of South India ; and your surprise will be equal to mine, when you see the Pavement-dweller. He is called a pavement-dweller, as a mark of distinction ! What a piratical, ruffianly, masked, braggart and ill-bred word that is. But he is one of us, and he merely lives his life all the days of the year on a pavement. He is born there, and one day he will die on the same pavement.

There are a million such pavement-dwellers in all parts of India. Ours is an unhappy India ; but these dwellers know and practise one great lesson in life, namely they severally demonstrate the great Theorem of the Liveableness of Life. And this is a most surprising part of their being and professional methods of existence. They live and they have fixed lodgings on these pavements ; and every family, if it could be called human family, has its own undefined boundaries. It reminds me of a great Cosmopolitan Mess towards night-fall. A series of never ending hearths is lit up ; and a pot of rise boils on the ovens, not too much for the workers to consume. These workers belong to different varieties of professions. There is, of course, the toil-worn craftsman, with his rugged face, all weather tanned, with a look of rude intelligence. Says Carlyle of these labourers:—"Hardly entreated brother ! For us thy back was so bent, for us were thy straight limbs and fingers so deformed ; thou wert our conscript, no whom the lot fell ; and fighting our battles wert so marred. For in thee too lay a God-created form, but it was not to be unfolded ; encrusted must it stand with the thick adhesions and defacements of labour."

They are philosophic human beings. They live and breathe their last as a community. None of this lot has a sacred right or responsibility to watch over another's good fortune. They have learnt to live, and that means more than anything to them. Would you consider them honest ? Do they behave worse than swine ? You cannot give a categorical answer to these questions. I can only say "Sweet are the uses of adversity, for the good things that belong to prosperity are merely to be wished, but the good things that belong to adversity are much to be admired. They do and die ; and they do not believe in the old political maxim "Do *or* die". People complain that the pavement-dweller is dirty, greedy and he screams horribly. In some quarters of public opinion, he is regarded as a menace to society. But my mind makes a rapid survey of many other human gormandizers, fat necked, with half-buried eyes and toddling steps. These so-called respectable folk in other parts of this City are not free from vice and moral filth, and they scream more vociferously than these dwellers of pavement at any approach to social reform. But the pavement-dweller is free from the practice of war-mongers and international quacks, who make the pages of history black enough. These dwellers of the pavement are no cunning

men, they are a simple folk. They have lived in their respective environments for generations, and the slime of their ancient dwellings still clings to them. They love their little spots with the passion of a patriot to his motherland.

To them, all days are working days; and there is not much difference between a Saturday and a Sunday. To us of course, a Sunday is a day of low tones, its minutes go by muffled, and to the children of the godly it is eternity. To some of us, a Sunday is an interruption of the week, and to others it is the week itself. But to a poor pavement-dweller, these days make a little difference; and what he notices is less noise and dust from vehicular traffic on City roads on holidays. He is so much accustomed to the din, the fume, the fret and fever of his city-brothers on public-thoroughfares, that he does not consult a calendar for his convenience. When he gets a little rest, he is right on the pavement, and becomes garrulous. To him, all natural talk is a festival of ostentation. He revels in a good talk, provided it points to no conclusion. These inveterate talkers on road-side (largerly the women-folk) weave for themselves with words palace of delights, temple and theatre, where they feast with the gods, exulting in *kudos*. And when a talk is finished, each goes his own way, flushed with vanity and admiration, with trailing clouds of glory. It is hard to compete with these men in talking race.

The children simply roll on the pavement for a bed and rest. They sleep as innocent as doves. The din of City life cannot awaken them from their sweet slumber. Nature's sweet balm-sleep is very kind to them. Perhaps, it is the only gift, which Dame Nature has reserved for them for eternity. "Dust thou art and to dust thou shalt return"— is their speechless message from way-side pulpits. They are sweet little cherubs, seemingly not meant for this world. But let no birth-controller dig their graves behind their backs. That shall be an act of cowardice. Society can provide for them amenities, and the Corporation's "Ashok Vihar" is not far from this way-side nursery of poor orphans, who clamour for immediate care and attention.

We are a conventional folk. Plethora has filled us with indifference, and we are covered from head to foot with the collosities of habitual opulence. We eat of the best, not from delicacy, but from brazen habit. But we can afford to bend our eyes on pavement-dwellers. In and through them, virtue emanates like precious odours. I do not consider myself in any sense essentially different from the pavement - dweller. The words "I," "you" and "they" are merely grammatical devices invented simply for arrangement, and they are totally devoid of the intense and exclusive sense usually attached to them. In 1952, I, you and the pavement-dweller have come to the verge, where words abandon us. Looking through the abyss of social reform and improvement to the pavement-dweller, we behold the relation of things remaining unchanged. Our living society including the pavement-dweller should have dance in its steps, music in its voice, beauty in its limbs and thus maintain its harmony in God's creation.